

Southern Park County Fire Protection District  
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MARCH 1, 2012  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Stanley Steps Down as SPCFPD Chief

Gene Stanley, long-time Chief of the Southern Park County Fire Protection District (SPCFPD), steps down effective March 31, 2012. He will continue as a volunteer with the Department, will manage the district's wildland fire program, and continue to serve in his appointed position as chairman of the Park County E911 Authority Board and as a fire investigator for Park County. Stanley will be succeeded as Chief by Deputy Chief Don Felton. Felton assumes his new duties on April 1.

"I've been a first responder for 40 years," explained Stanley, "and have put a lot of personal projects and interests on the back burner, especially during the last five years." Stanley has served District as Chief twice. Seventeen years ago, he took over the District for seven years. During that first term Station #1 was completed and two additional stations were built and put into service, training was improved, and performance standards improved dramatically, increasing the efficiency of fire and medical emergency response to District residents.

After that term, Stanley became active nationally in emergency response to wildland fires and other major emergencies. Stanley spent six months in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Five years ago, Stanley was asked to return to the District and he agreed. "I'm proud of the professionalism of our volunteers. It was an honor to lead this group of people and I'll be proud to continue to work side by side with them. As Chief I assumed the role as Incident Commander during our emergency responses. Now I can get back to working in emergency medical response," something he says he has always loved.

"Gene Stanley has served this District with exceptional ability," said SPCFPD Board Chairman Sam Calanni. "He has inspired talented volunteers to join the Department and kept them motivated. We are extremely pleased to have a new chief who has already demonstrated his abilities within the department and we expect a smooth transition."

Calanni and the District Board will be conducting a search for a new Deputy Chief. Until one is found, Stanley will cover the Chief's duties on Felton's days off. "The District's commitment to full-time professional coverage in the Fire Chief's position remains unchanged, and we will select a new Deputy Chief as soon as we find the right candidate," says Calanni.

Don Felton, along with his wife, Barbara, are long-time residents of the district. Don has been taking extensive emergency response training for several years that have prepared him for his new position. He has also had lots of leadership experience in the military (he was a Sargent Major), in the National Guard and as a civilian government contractor at the U.S. Air Force Academy. "I have ideas and plans about the direction I would like to see the district take in the future, " says Felton, "but I have to admit I'm a little anxious about taking the reins from Gene. His shoes are not going to be easy to fill."

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